



# Adult education and lifelong learning in Estonia

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Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium

# General information

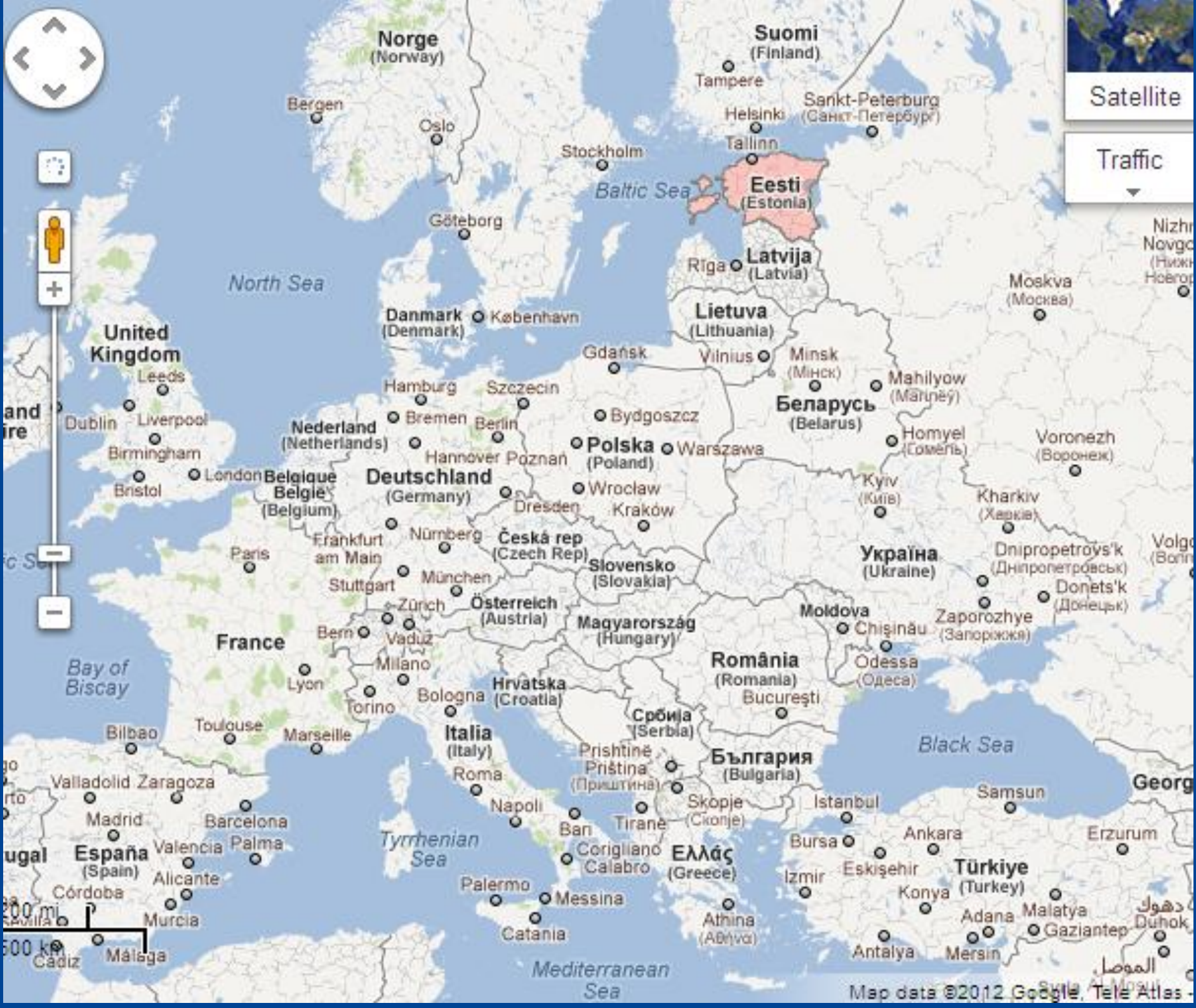
- ① Area: ~45,000 sq km
- ① Total population: ~1.3 million
- ① Ethnic composition: Estonians 70%
- ① Population density: 30 people per sq km



Satellite

Traffic

Map navigation and zoom controls including a person icon, a plus sign, and two minus signs.



# Who is an adult learner in Estonia?

- ① A part-time learner:
  - in formal education (basic and general)
  - in work-related courses
  - in popular adult education courses (hobby groups etc)

Age is not important. This is not the learner's main activity. According to statistics it is the 25 – 64 age group.

## Participation in lifelong education

- Percentage of the population aged 25-64 participating in adult education and training is calculated during the period of four weeks prior the survey (Eurostat).

Participation rates over the past few years:

2008 - 9,8%

2009 – 10,0%

2010 – 10,9%

2011 – 12,0%

## Adults in formal education

- ④ General education (basic and secondary)  
17 evening schools + 18 schools with adult departments
- ④ Vocational education – full- and part-time studies

Access: people with basic education or aged over 17

State commissioned places

## Adults in formal education II

- ① Higher education – students can choose between full-time and part-time studies

Access: everybody who has acquired secondary education. 45% state commissioned; 55 self-financed (full-time and part-time together)

Over 90% of the part-time studies are self-financed

## Adults in non-formal education

- ① Work-related training:
  - vocational educational training institutions
  - higher education institutions
  - popular adult education centres
- ① Popular adult education
  - partly financed by the state

Access: for everyone



## Promotion of adult education

- ④ System of recognition of prior studies and work experience
- ④ Adult education Act (1993)
- ④ A new draft act is currently in process – all different stakeholders are involved in the discussions (learners, providers, policy-makers etc)

# European Structural Funds 2007 - 2013

- ① Adult education programmes – priority issue:  
lifelong learning
- ① Popularisation adult education 2008 – 2012 –  
Association of Estonian Adult Educators Andras

## Main tasks of Andras

- ① Promotion and dissemination of the idea of lifelong learning since 1991
- ① Adult Learners Week (since 1998) - over-Estonian network; Andras as a national coordinator
- ① Professional development training for adult educators

**A lot of initiative, courage and  
cooperation in achieving our common  
goals!**

Sirje Plaks

Programme Manager

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